

THE SPIRITUAL TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Here is a short summary on the tribes of Israel, their characteristics, meaning, strong and weak points, etc.

REUBEN

Meaning:

See a son! A new beginning.

Symbol:

Rising sun = new beginning, life, anointing
Mandrake plant (afrodisiac)

Gem:

Sardius (dark red) = to show blood, to flush

Family:

Enoch - pure and dedicated
Phallu – pride rebellion

Character:

- First born privilege
- Beautiful spirit
- Compassionate
- Kind; Generous
- Peace loving
- Gives hope
- Courageous
- Loyal
- Tender
- Lover
- Conscience
- Hates sin
- Not happy when out of God's will
- Easy followers
- Will make sacrifice when necessary
- Their faithfulness will be blessed

Weakness:

- Enjoy life
- Sits back
- Don't like to fight
- Easily moved and misused
- Unpredictable
- Impulsive
- Deviant sexuality
- Can miss full promise
- Can never cover sin
- Own thinking – can cause division
- Strong own will
- Far away – own altar may take place of fellowship

Advice:

Never leave protection of fellowship

Closely connected with:

Judah and Ephraim

SIMEON

Meaning:

One who hears and obeys

Symbol:

Pitcher = weapon of Gideon; also earthen (flesh) vessel

Dagger = sword of God (spiritual warfare)

City gates = will possess gates of enemies

Gem:

Topaz (amber, pale blue) = wisdom as a gift of God; purity, peaceful, gentle

Family:

Jemuel = light, shining

Ohad = strong, powerful

Jachin = God establishes

Shaul = intercessor

Character:

- Peace with God
- People of praise – victory
- Fighters
- Fearless
- Zealous for God
- Grow into maturity through trial and suffering
- Hear from God before the rest of us

Weakness:

- Rebellion
- Over-eager
- Hasty
- Use gifts to own destruction
- Easily influenced
- Jealous
- Can be cruel
- Fight outside God's timing and covering - secret and anger
- Simeon and Levi destroy each other; one controls the other
- Passion and lust – made them slaves and defiled them
- They lost their song of praise = deceived by self-will, pride, stubbornness, rebellion
- [Flaunt God's law – Levi will thrust Simeon]

Advice:

Do not fight own battles

Live in place of high praises

Closely connected with:

Inheritance with Judah [Well of oath, Dweller with God, Refuge of grace, Abundance]

LEVI

Meaning:

Join, to fasten, attach, devoted, united - between God and His bride.

Symbol:

Breastplate with 12 stones of judgement = all upon Jesus' heart, carry ministry given on his heart.

Gem:

Carbuncle (deep red) = transform through pressure to take colour of blood of Jesus.

History/Prophesy:

- Levi has no inheritance. They only want God as their inheritance. They give up all else. God often gives them an inheritance for their faithfulness.
- Great price to stand on the Lord's side
- Teach judgment, law
- Put incense in bowl, burn sacrifices
- Those against anointed Levi will be smitten by the Lord

Family:

- Aaron = illuminates, raises up, promotes
- Miriam = rebellious, stubborn, sad, strong and fat, singer
- Moses = God's mouth

Character:

- Bring people to the presence of God; want man to be reconciled to God
- Called for the deliverance of God's people
- Easy to work with
- You cannot hide anything from them
- Gift of understanding (they love God's Word)
- Life of prayer, make intercession
- Life of faith; laid down everything on the Altar
- Faithful, Obedient
- Often great singers!

Weakness:

- Stubborn
- Anger/Violence
- Judgmental; insensitive (to destroy character of people)
- Disobedient
- Do not believe God for something new
- Do not hallow/honour God
- Controversies in self
- Cruel with Simeon (because of anger)

Advice:

- Purity (especially with money) in sacrifices. (Beware of contaminated sacrifices).
- Great law = LOVE
- Must not defend self
- Be "kosher" (i.e. not contaminated)

Closely connected with:

God

JUDAH

Meaning:

Praise, give thanks, cast out
Travail, weep
Consecration, power worship

Symbol:

- Lion's whelp = fear, easy prey, milk, playful, bossy, unteachable
- Young lion = violent, self confident, foolish, roar to announce presence, not yet full intelligence, enemy is self
- Old lion = mature, wisdom, honoured and respected, know identity in God, guards his territory, rules over darkness

Gem:

Emerald (Green) = mercy, develops through enduring, royal priesthood

Prophecy:

- Access to blessing and finance
- Victory, protection of God
- Sacrifice own will, through humbleness, to God's will ('bind ass's colt to vine')
- Only covering is the blood of Jesus ('wash garment in wine')
- Hear the Lord and intercede

Family:

Pharez = break forth, tear, suffering

Zarah = rising light, to be set free by the blood of Jesus

Character:

- Advocates = able to reason, settle problems
- Organise; Plan ahead
- Kingly; Influential
- Filled with praise to God
- Honest to recognise weakness
- Love
- Willing to put life as guarantor
- Intercessor
- [Honour Levi (priestly)]

Weakness:

- Rejection; Inferiority; Self-pity
- Complaining; Faultfinding
- Rebellion
- Leave fellowship = relationship with wicked causes them to fall
- Riches, Wine, beautiful women
- Don't like difficult things – get someone else to do it
- Afraid for reputation
- Quick to pass judgement

Advice:

Need to consecrate wealth to Jesus

Have to be humbled and matured – can only then love and reason correctly

Connection:

Inhabited Levi; Walks with Dan; Covers Simeon

ISSACHAR

Meaning:

He will bring a reward, to lift, exalt, raise up, payment of contract (Born to serve)

Symbol:

Humble donkey

Gem:

Amethyst = violet, purple (Balance and stateliness)

Family:

-Deborah = 'sun which comes out in full strength' – could see who God had called; could see the strategy, where and when to attack; knew God had gone before them; fearless; soldier; wise; daring

-Shimron = to watch, keeper, guardian

Character:

- Gift of understanding of times (will make preparation for what is coming; instinct for what is going on politically; know when to make investments; right on schedule with God's timing)
- Often introverts; quiet; reserved
- Careful; cautious; not easily disturbed or excited
- Humble; ready to help
- Very generous – will give and give, then filled with joy.
- Will take care of the ones they love (keep from destruction)
- Carry own crosses and others crosses; concerned about others
- Don't complain, just groan under their burdens
- Won't push people out of way
- Take time to listen; slow
- Shepherd of the flock; Watcher
- Get people back to true basics
- Remember the good things the Lord has done
- Hate religious show business
- God-given desire to fly (love cars and anything that moves)
- Would rather stay put – hard to get started on a journey but once started, enjoy it.
- Appreciate rest – work till overcome, then fall asleep
- Always ready to read books, but never get round to doing it – can only blame self
- Tendency to hoard

Weakness:

- Stubborn – like donkey
- Hard to be obedient to the Lord
- Workaholic; Perfectionist (details)
- Tries to do everything (5 jobs at once)
- Irritated when someone speaks out of time
- Can explode ('just can't take it anymore')
- Forget to live in holiness and honour God
- Can become angry, proud and lifted up, exalted in self
- In moment of fear, they do not trust God
- Very firm nature, unmovable

Advice:

- Spiritual balance = NB
- When burden gets too heavy, lay it at the feet of the Lord; Watch out – Satan wants to bog down with unnecessary burdens and don't become a work slave

Closely connected with:

Zebulun

ZEBULUN

Meaning:

To dwell in, a gift, to enclose

Symbol:

Sailing ship

Gem:

Aquamarine (loves to sail blue-green seas, feels the call of far-away places)

Prophesy:

- ...and he shall be a haven for ships...' = ministry for travelers, wanderers, the lost; concern for the destitute
- ...rejoice Zebulun, in thy going out...' = rejoice when preparing to go on journey; called to travel
- ...they shall call people unto the mountain...' – call people to a place of revelation
- ...there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness...' = prayer warrior; wants purity, honesty and holiness
- The Lord has given Zebulun sea with its riches; sands of earth with its oil, water, minerals; and the burden for nations and the ability to go out and bring Light to those in darkness.

Character:

- Wants to protect others against the world
- Sees ahead, has vision, sees beneath the surface
- Will go and win souls
- Always talking
- Cannot work along with structure and programs
- Loves the freedom of open seas, to discover "lost" continent not yet known
- Will avoid confrontation, but face it with strength and courage if has to
- Ready for battle when needed, know place in army, marches in perfect unison, peaceful spirit but ready to fight
- Challenge for battle – love and compassion for people
- Will sacrifice until death for what Zebulun believes in
- Writer, scribe, speak, tell out, gift and anointing to use the pen
- Rod of counseling, correction to those entrusted to Zebulun
- Faithful where there is need
- True friend, loyal, not double hearted
- Judge
- Will wait upon God
- No one can force Zebulun to carry yoke or burden that is not of the Lord
- Loves light, cannot stand darkness

Weakness:

- Hard to express feelings, but feels very deeply
- Wall around heart, afraid of being hurt, sensitive
- Can hardly turn anyone away – even a wolf
- Sensitive to criticism of writing
- Demands same loyalty from friends
- Desire to escape – peace at any price
- Will mock and laugh and deride until convinced its God

Advice:

- Never loose heart of compassion
- Stop running away from difficult situations
- Overcome wall built around self by power of Holy Spirit
- Sing and praise – enjoy the blessings of the Lord
- Forgive

Closely connected with:

Issachar, Naphtali

DAN

Meaning:

Judge, ruler, execute, discern

Symbol:

Serpent = cunning; Scale = judgment

Gem:

Sapphire

Prophecy:

- New world order will emerge from tribe of Dan
- New adventure and fruitful ground ('Dan's lion whelp shall leap from Bashan')

Family:

- Samson – tremendous strength and much potential (but sad end due to weakness)

Character:

- Discerning; judge righteously
- Strength; Courage
- Gift = leadership
- Wisdom
- Cunning; Can sway an audience
- Quick thinkers
- Fulfill their vows – no turning back (faithful)
- Great martyrs – when repent and lay down life for the Lord
- Artistic with hands; Skillful
- Love embroidery/texture
- Able to keep quiet and keep a secret
- Ready to help
- Almighty is their protector

Weakness:

- Hurried; Quick to loose temper
- Rebellious; Stubborn; Disobedient
- Self-confident; Pride – have to fall low before realise can't make it in own strength
- Judgmental
- Worldly – prosper in own lust
- Bribes
- Idolatry (golden calf)
- Iniquity
- Thief – stole image
- Afraid to fight for inheritance
- Exposed during attack
- Inability to come to fulfillment
- [Not good instructors]

Advice:

- Break down Baal images in your life
- Do not have heart of a serpent (only be cunning)
- Shut mouth when need to
- Go back to God when loose vision
- Head needs to be shaped = humbling experience

Closely connected with:

Judah

NAPHTALI

Meaning:

Obtained by wrestling

Symbol:

Hind (deer) let loose

Gem:

Diamond (reflects light)

Prophesy:

-'Full with the blessing of the Lord...' - only when let loose to seek green pastures and to be led by Spirit to still water that can be filled with the blessings provided by God.

Family:

Boaz = it is in strength; Barak = lightening sword

Character:

- Sure footed; Not afraid to climb high places
- Leaping ahead of the troops, leading them to victory
- Not able to catch when loose
- Sense of sight and hearing well developed
- Dwells in the light
- Without bitterness, no jealousy
- Not afraid to share glory
- Shares fair words either in word/song, sometimes with weeping, but it pierces like an arrow
- Called to warn God's people of coming judgment
- Intercessor – travail, pray, sing, praise, prophesy, fight through to victory until free, lays hold of horn of altar and will not let go till God hears
- Wrestling ministry that will shake hell's foundation
- Has learnt power of fasting
- Her Beloved is her first love
- Never feels intimidated
- Man = masculine, woman = feminine
- Will give and give
- Likes to eat!

Weakness:

- Shy
- Easily angered, quick tempered, irritable, hard
- Impatient when they think it's time to get moving, run ahead of the Lord
- Sometimes acts like calf let out – reckless and immature
- Strong self-will – destructive when ruled by self-will; Independent nature
- Spirit of compromise – will cause loss of inheritance

Advice:

- Bring self-will under God's control
- Keep heart pure from bitterness, lest not true intercessor
- Obedience = secret to freedom and safety
- Don't be intimidated by other prisoners of war – you've been set free
- Careful to have any idols or concessions made with anything that the devil can use to destroy you

Closely connected with:

Zebulun – fight together as one; new adventures

ASHER

Meaning:

Happy, to be straight, level, to go forward, be honest, prosper, bless, lead, relieve

Symbol:

Fruitful olive tree; Oil (Holy Spirit)

Gem:

Agate – more humble stone, formed out of tribulation

Prophecy:

-‘...and he shall yield royal dainties...’ = Asher brings words that are strong and choice pieces (delicacies); royal – straight from throne of God.

-...let Asher be blessed with children...’ = blessing in natural and spiritual

-‘...as thy days, so shall thy strength be...’ – promise of strength exactly what is needed.

Character:

- Happiness
- Soft and tender, not pushy or domineering
- Peacemakers
- Learnt lesson of turning troubles into bread
- Indwelling presence of Holy Spirit
- Fearless
- Know secrets of God; gives Word of God to others (blessings and judgment)
- Obedient
- Life of fasting and praying = easy
- Not easily irritated by change
- Not discouraged when others not living what preaching
- Calling to give; gift of hospitality
- Loyal to friends

Weakness:

- Wants to please everybody
- Compromise
- Deceived
- Walk on broad way – loose anointing
- Satan wants to hem Asher in

Advice:

- Be careful of fatness of the world
- Do not forsake the Fountain of Living Waters
- Calling to new, holy, anointed walk with God

Closely connected with:

Called to be shining light like Naphtali and Zebulun

GAD

Meaning:

Troop, fortune, to attack, to overcome, invade, gather together

Symbol:

Three tents = to wander, on the move

Gem:

Ligure/jacinth = deep blue, formed through heat (trials and testing)

Prophesy:

-‘Blessed is he who blesses Gad...’ - hard for Gad to get out of own prison, hard to get moving, need encouragement to enlarge border.

Family:

Haggai = celebrate, welcome, restoration

Shuni = peaceful and happy, things are right with God

Ezbon = beautiful, listener, grow to maturity

Eri = watchful

Arodi = roamer, be reduced, trial and suffering

Areli = warlike, courageous

*Elijah = slain Jezebel, did not take nonsense

Character:

- Resembled in 4 tribes: Judah (lion), Benjamin (first portion for self), Levi (scribe), Dan (judge).
- Warrior (men of war, fit for battle)
- Ready, not afraid
- Goes to heart of battle
- Carries authority
- Defends pastures
- Ability to swim = sweep trough death
- Compassion
- Declares/brings healing of the Lord

Weakness:

- Self = worst enemy
- Feels inferior
- Has hard time to identify self
- Bitterness and unforgiveness
- Own thing = pain and misunderstanding in the camp
- Rough edges – irritates others
- Zealous for wrong, unnecessary sacrifices
- Captive when idolatrous

Advice:

- Call on God alone for help and exalt Him as Yahweh, Father
- Understand seasons
- Experience God as Father

Closely connected with:

Judah, Levi, Dan, Benjamin

EPHRAIM

(Son of Joseph, grandson of Jacob – received same inheritance as sons of Jacob)

Meaning:

Double fruitful land of my affection

Symbol:

Cluster of grapes – fruitful on earth in every good work

Gem:

Onyx - fit for the mansions of eternity

Prophesy/History:

- ‘...Blessing upon thee...’ in terms of rain, minerals, gems, wealth, oil, children (physical and spiritual)
- Gifted in hands to do all that God has called them to do
- Need to be separated – God wants to visit
- United with Manasseh – will be a blessing to the world

Family:

- Royal line
- Joshua – courage, meditate on Word day and night
- Samuel and Hannah = dedicated to God
- Shuthelah = revolution, radical change
- Elishama = God has heard
- Ammihud = my covering is mighty
- Kemuel = God stands up, God has risen

Character:

- Has fought against giants; called to have faith and courage
- Warrior
- Dares to believe God for a new thing – tremendous faith
- When made up mind, will not change it
- Integrity; Pure of heart
- Has influence on earth
- Is a blessing

Weakness:

- Dedicated to false gods – idolatry
- Likes to do own little thing
- Finds it hard to raise/discipline own children
- Spoiled – wants things to be done for him
- Doesn’t like to wrestle or pray through a thing

Advice:

- To be separated and holy
- Stay humble to get portion
- Hear and listen to God’s voice
- Complete dedication = NB

Closely connected with:

Manasseh

MANASSEH

Meaning:

Makes one forget, must forgive, firstborn

Symbol:

Palm tree

Gem:

Onyx

Prophesy:

- ‘...Blessing upon thee...’ in terms of rain, minerals, gems, wealth, oil, children (physical and spiritual)
- Will be strong
- Needs to be separated – God wants to visit
- United together with Ephraim – will be blessing to the world

Family:

- Suffered rejection, cruelty, scarred
- Need cutting and buffing – suffering before glory!
- Royal line
- Gideon – had to cut down idols, ask proof, testing own faith
- Mahlah = pleasant, delicate
- Noah = emotion, flexible
- Hoglah = partridge
- Milcah = queen
- Tirzah = fear, foundation

Character:

- When made up mind, will not change it
- Will not break in a storm
- Alone with the Lord – roots deep in Him
- Wants to know future
- Organised
- Not fooled by flattery
- Strong to push people together
- Balm of healing will flow

Weakness:

- Finds it hard to love imperfect people
- Likes to do own thing
- Sometimes aside from family devotions

Advice:

- Enlarge place of tents – lots of physical and spiritual children
- Be grounded in Lord only
- Stay humble to get another portion

Closely connected with:

Ephraim

BENJAMIN

Meaning:

Son of my right hand, son of happiness, son of a prince

Symbol:

Wolf – born through great travail

Gem:

Jasper (blue-green) – most precious, like crystal, foundation of New Jerusalem

Prophesy:

- ‘...shall dwell in safety by him...’ = Divine protection given to them; they’ll find the special presence of the Lord watching over them.

History:

-Saul was a ravenous wolf and Paul also started out the same, but Paul was transformed to do great things for the Lord and to suffer for Him. Saul committed suicide, but Paul was a martyr for Christ. Queen Esther – ‘If I perish, I perish’

Family:

Naaman = favorable, gracious

Huppim = covering, protected

Gideoni = God’s fighter

Character:

- Blessing for others
- Divine protection around them (fight for their lives)
- Trained for great warfare – fit to go out for war and battle
- Will not look for first hiding place – “Lord where do you need me?”
- Divides the spoil
- Gives people mystery of the Gospel
- Requires nothing – content
- Knows power of God
- Has great courage
- Discernment
- Will fight for the rights of the Lord – usually not own
- Benjamite man has no trouble working with a woman
- Very loyal to the one they love
- Uniqueness seen in left-hand warfare – unexpected
- No matter how hard things go, know there is a time of rest coming

Weakness:

- Only thinks about self to be satisfied
- Bit lazy because spoiled
- When pride comes in, heart filled with jealousy
- Stubborn
- Strong will that should be managed early

Advice:

- Should flee out of midst of cursed thing
- Stay humble
- Avoid being spoiled

Connection:

Judah